

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 2 to 10 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

V is an element that contributes to the improvement of strength in the same way as Mo and Mn but deteriorates elongation. Therefore, the addition amount of V is preferably small as long as the strength can be secured. Further, when the V content exceeds 0.10%, cracking is likely to occur during casting. Therefore, the upper limit is set to 0.10%. V can mitigate Mn segregation when added as a partial substitute for Mn. To obtain this effect, at least 0.001% of $[[B]]$ V must be added.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 4 to 12 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

The formation of ferrite is suppressed with the increase of the addition amount of Mn. Consequently, the second phase percentage increases and the strength can be secured more easily but the drop of elongation occurs. ~~Elongation can be improved~~ C improves elongation, through the hole expandability drops, by hardening the second phase. Therefore, to secure elongation of required for at least 980 N/mm², the following formula <2> must be satisfied:

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times Mn > - 9,860 \quad \dots \quad <2>.$$

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 13 to 18 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

Since the effect of each of Mo and V is determined by its atomic equivalent at this time, the formula <2> changes to <2>' under the condition in which Mo or V is added:

$$50,227 \times C - 4,479 \times (Mn + 0.57 \times Mo + 1.08 \times V) \\ > - 9,860 \quad \dots \quad <2>'.$$

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 3 of the specification with the following amended paragraph.

Steels having components tabulated in Table 1 and Table 2 (continuing Table 1) are molten and continuously cast into slabs in a customary manner. Symbols A to Z represent the steels having the components of the invention. Steel having a symbol a has a Mn addition amount outside the range of the invention. Similarly, steel b and steel d have a Ti addition amount and a C addition amount outside the ranges of the invention, respectively. Further, steel having a symbol $[[C]] \leq c$ has values of formulas <1> and <3> outside the range of the invention. These steels are heated at a temperature higher than 1,250°C in a heating furnace and are hot rolled into hot-rolled steel sheets having a sheet thickness of 2.6 to 3.2 mm. The hot rolling condition is tabulated in Table 3 and Table 4 (continuing Table 3).